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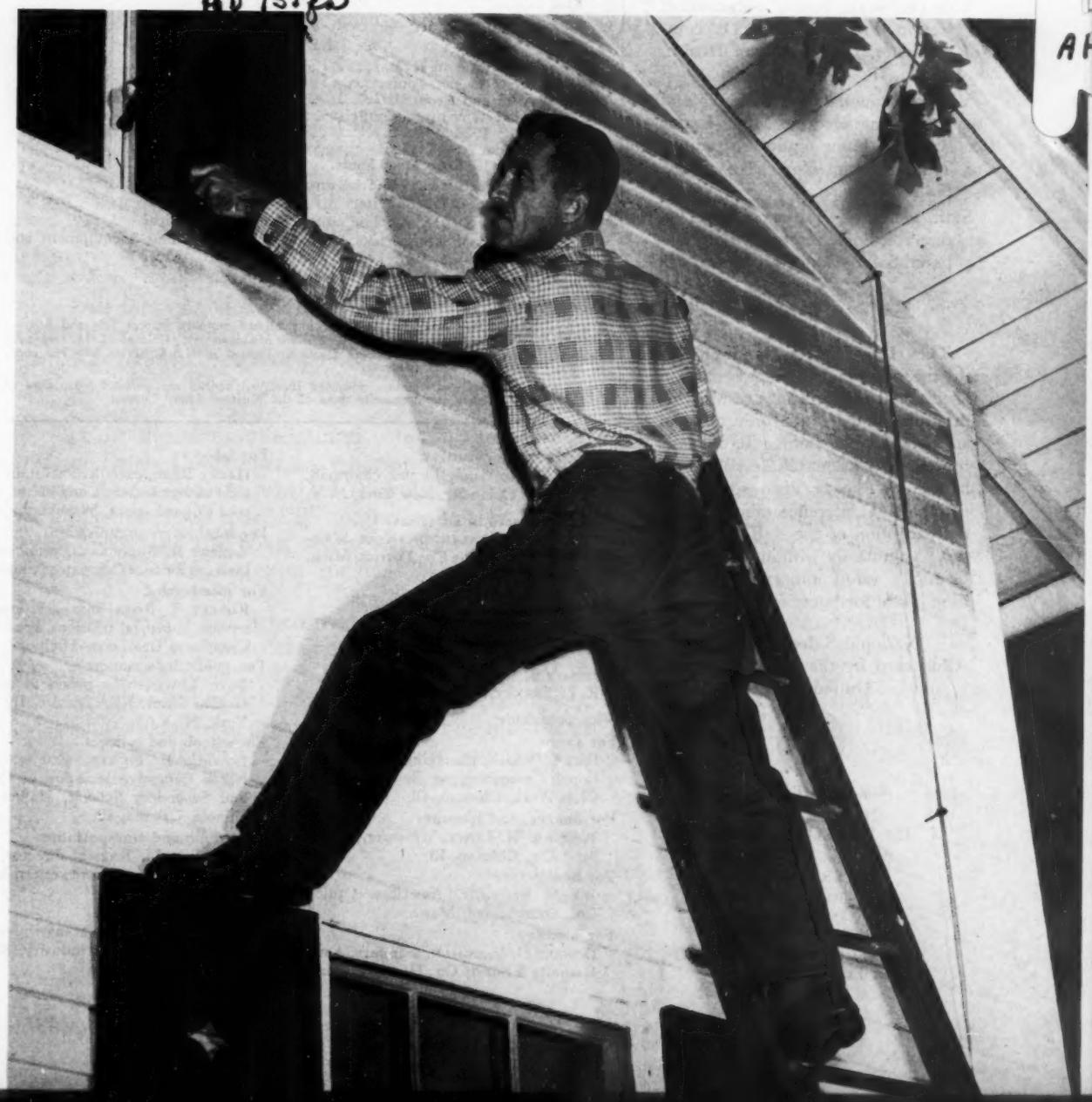

MOVE THAT LADDER!

THE COVER

Reaching too far on a ladder is an unsafe practice; move the ladder over instead.

HOME SAFETY CONFERENCE

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The Home Safety Conference is the meeting point for representatives of national organizations conducting programs that include prevention of accidents in the home. It officially represents National Safety Council home safety service subscriber-members. Conference officers (with the exception of the staff secretary) serve voluntarily without pay as the Council's safety officers and planning board for home safety program.

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A Magazine for Home Safety Program Leaders

VOL. 13 **NO. 4**

APRIL 1956

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The Importance of the Individual

PEOPLE WHO work on home safety are modest to a fault. As I travel around the country, visiting organizations interested in home safety, I hear over and over: "What we're doing isn't much. We should be doing a lot more." The folks in each organization too often seem to feel that their contribution to the prevention of home accidents is very small—insignificant—maybe not even worth noting.

Of course we shouldn't feel that way. We must remind ourselves that the home safety movement is still in its early stages, that those who are now taking the first steps for home safety are pioneers. We need to do more to recognize the importance of the home safety efforts of each individual organization and to help them see it.

Year after year the total number and rate of fatal home accidents has steadily decreased, and we believe that this is the net result of the home safety activities of thousands of uncounted organizations. But which organizations work for home safety, and what are their activities? For many years we have had bits and pieces of information. Much was known about the home safety programs of a few organizations, but virtually nothing about what many others were doing. Why? Because we had no systematic collection of facts about who was doing what to prevent home accidents.

All that changed in 1955. Programs for home safety were stimulated by a trial-run Inventory which gave us for the first time information about the activities of many small organizations whose pioneering efforts are important to the home safety movement.

Now the many official and voluntary organizations which work together as the Home Safety Conference have begun the all-out effort: the 1956 Home Safety Inventory. The recent meeting of their Inventory Committee is described on page 28. They emphasized that, "The objectives of the Inventory are to stimulate, encourage, and coordinate the home safety activities of all organizations concerned and to help determine which activities are most likely to be effective."

Now is the time when those of us working for home safety should encourage each interested individual local organization to save an extra file copy of every paper concerning any activities which help to prevent home accidents. At the end of the year, these papers will be needed for the Home Safety Inventory. The modest activities of each individual local organization should go into the record, because they *do* help and are therefore important. The nationwide home safety movement is the sum total of the efforts of many individuals and organizations.

Ralph Kuhli

Assistant Director
Home Safety Division

ACTIVITIES SHEET NO. 4

IDEAS for CONTESTS

Send us your comments and suggestions. Any received by June 15 will be considered in revisions for a reprint of this for distribution.

Betty Chipak, left, and Rosemary Petrick, both eighth grade students at Woodrow Wilson School, go over script of Learning the Hard Way, play which won them first place in the junior high division of play-writing contest sponsored by the Binghamton Civic Club aided by the Home Safety Division, Broome County Safety Council, Johnson City, N. Y. *Binghamton Press Photo*

PLAYWRIGHTS DRAMATIZE SAFETY

The following article is by *Mrs. Charles J. Bellew*, home safety chairman, and *Mrs. Carl Lee Cook*, co-chairman, Broome County Safety Council, in co-operation with *Mrs. Webster L. Bagley*, safety chairman, Civic Club of Binghamton, N. Y.

The Civic Club of Binghamton, N. Y., an organization with a membership of approximately one thousand women in Broome County, sponsored a playwriting contest among the pupils of the Binghamton, Johnson City, and Endicott junior and senior high schools, both public and parochial.

Through the efforts of Mrs. Charles J. Bellew, Mrs. Carl Lee Cook, and Mrs. Webster L. Bagley, active members of the Civic Club, material was obtained, prepared, and distributed to the various participating schools. Some teachers made this contest a regular assignment, while others permitted the students to enter the contest voluntarily. The pupils had the opportunity to work and develop the play during the summer vacation.

Throughout the schools, intense interest was shown, due to the uniqueness of the program:

1. Summer asignment
2. Challenge to the initiative of the student
3. Monetary award
4. TV showing of the winning plays
5. Production of the winning play before the Civic Club

A whirlwind of activity developed among the students. Material was gathered, libraries were hunted and in general the home was subjected to a vast eye-searching for danger spots.

Contest rules were simple. It was to be a one-act play of not over 20 minutes in length. The theme was to be on home safety. The Civic Club cash awards of $15, $10 and $5 for the top three entries in each division, junior and senior high school writings, were to be judged separately.

The judges were Miss Muriel Kappeler, a writer on the women's page of the Binghamton Press, Dr. Beatrice Brown, a retired Harpur University professor, and Herman Brandt, employee of International Business Machines Corporation and an active member of local theatre groups. Mr. Brandt at one time appeared on the professional stage.

Plays were submitted in September and the winners announced the last week of October. To facilitate the judging, each teacher reviewed the plays submitted by her students, and the best ones were passed on to the judges for the final decision. Six winning plays were announced as well as two honorable mention.

The first prize winning play in the junior high division was written by two seventh grade students, who spent their summer vacation collaborating and wrote Learning the Hard Way. This was produced in November by the Frill and Frown Club of the East Junior High School, under the direction of Miss Lillian Camen, dramatic coach of the

School as well as coordinator of student activities. The play was presented to the School assembly of one thousand pupils and teachers and then given before the Civic Club. All winning contestants and their families were invited to this meeting, and the players had an audience of about 350 people. Following the play, the president of the Civic Club introduced all the winners to the audience.

The next day, this same play was televised over WNBF-TV which has a viewing audience of an approximate radius of twenty-five hundred square miles. Time for the play was allotted by the School of the Air program. It was presented under the direction of Mrs. Reah Drake, head of the English Department of the Binghamton school system.

The following June, the winning play in the senior high division, All In a Day's Work, was produced by the Binghamton Civic Theatre group over WNBF-TV, under the direction of Stanley Hill. For this the television station generously gave the Civic Club the entire 30 minutes of the regularly scheduled Zoo Parade program. Inasmuch as the play took only 12 minutes a large portion of the remaining time was devoted to a question and answer period on the pertinent factors involving home accidents and what preventive measures could be taken to help in cutting down the high percentage of home accidents. The panel consisted of Mrs. Stanley Heslop, president of Civic Club, Mrs. Webster Bagley, safety chairman of Civic Club, and Mrs. Charles Bellew, Broome County Safety Council chairman.

The Broome County Safety Council issued Certificates of Merit to each of the contestants in the contest.

FILL IN THE MISSING WORD CONTEST

By Mrs. Sally Rankin
Director of Home Division
Louisville Safety Council
Louisville, Ky.

THE WOMEN'S DIVISION, Louisville Safety Council, Louisville, Ky., used a Fill in The Missing Word Contest as part of the holiday safety party for the December meeting in 1953 and 1954. These were really more of a game, in which three prizes were awarded for the highest scores, than they were a contest.

The Fill in the Missing Word blanks used in 1953 were later used as part of a program package which was presented before numerous PTA and women's clubs. In addition to this game, which was conducted by Mrs. Sally Rankin, a safety monologue in the form of a telephone conversation, was given by Mrs. H. M. Zimmerman, program chairman. Prizes of safety calendars and pencils were awarded to the five with the highest score.

The material for these blanks was taken from Targets — for Home Safety published by the National Safety Council, but any other good and pertinent material could be used in the same way. The most important words were deleted, and the contestants were asked to supply the correct words.

These games had a 15 minute time limit. The papers were then passed to a neighbor for grading. The person conducting the game read the complete sentence and ruled on correctness, if other words which have the same meaning were used.

The use of these Fill in the Missing Word blanks has proved to be an interesting method of presenting safety information to groups.

Below are the blanks.

1953

FILL IN THE MISSING WORD

LIVING ROOM AND STAIRWAY AREA:

1. Keep stairs and passageways (clear).
2. Protect fireplace with tight (screen).
3. Repair or replace (worn) light cords.
4. Fasten rug (edges).
5. Have no small (rugs) at head or foot of stairs.

BEDROOM AND BATHROOM AREA:

1. Remove stumbling (hazards).
2. Never (smoke) in bed.
3. Seal (poisons) with adhesive tape.
4. Keep bathroom floor (dry, soap) out of tub.
5. Have (porcelain) light sockets and (insulated) pull cords.

KITCHEN AREA:

1. Turn utensil handles (back) on the stove.

Members of the Binghamton Civic Club, working with the Broome County Safety Council, Johnson City, N. Y., plan a play-writing contest for pupils in Triple Cities secondary schools. The theme is prevention of home accidents. *Front, left to right:* Mrs. Stanley Heslop, Civic Club president; Mrs. Carl Lee Cook, past president; *back:* Mrs. Charles J. Bellew, Council home safety chairman; and Mrs. Ernest H. Parsons, Civic Club vice-president. *Sunday Press Photo*

2. Tie curtains (away) from stove.
3. Keep gas burners (adjusted).
4. Use (sturdy) step-ladders.
5. Never dry-clean in the (house).

BASEMENT AND ATTIC AREA:

1. (Dispose) of rubbish.
2. Put ashes in (metal) containers only.
3. Never start fires with (kerosene) or (gasoline).
4. Have (lighted) stairs and landings.
5. No (amateur) wiring.

YARD AREA:

1. Repair defective porch (steps) and (railings).
2. Use ladders (safely).
3. Put garden tools (away).
4. Burn rubbish in (metal) containers.
5. Have a back porch (light).

OTHER HAZARDS TO LOOK FOR:

1. Never bring a loaded (firearm) into the house.
2. Never point a (firearm).
3. Never take (medicine) in the dark.
4. Keep firearms, poisons and sharp tools (locked) away from young children.
5. Watch out for boards with (rusty) nails.

SCORE THREE POINTS EACH STATEMENT AND TEN POINTS EXTRA IF YOU PRACTICE EVERY ONE.

1954

CUES FOR A SAFE HOLIDAY

Sure the (snow) is pretty, and Junior's going to love making snowmen. But that hard packed, icy, "rough terrain" that covers your (walkways) when you don't clear them off can get you in trouble. (Clear) off the (snow) pronto after a storm.

Are you going to have children visiting you this Christmas? Better check to see if the place is (safe) for them. For instance, have you put (matches) and (poisons) out of reach?

Winners in Girl Scout Home Safety Contest, April, 1955. *Left to right:* Mary Ann Harris, Fairfax, Louise Chambers, LaFayette, Mary Ann Brazell, Shawmut, Patsy Yancey, Langdale. Earl Edwards, Manager, and Cliff Glover, Treasurer, Chattahoochee Valley Safety Council, West Point, Ga.

Maybe you're going to have grandma with you during Christmas. It is considerate of her comfort and may save her a nasty (fall) if you arrange her room so that she can reach a (light) from the bed. Keep a (light) on in the (bathroom) all night, too.

The most common home injury is (cuts). When you're doing that last minute shopping, give a (knife rack) or a (knife holder). The rack keeps (knives) where they can be gotten without (cutting) oneself and a sharp (knife) is safer than a dull one.

Plan your holiday baking, shopping, gift wrapping, etc., so that you won't be flustered and hurried at the last minute. (Cuts, burns) and (falls) are the most frequent injuries received at home. All of these are more apt to occur if you're (tired) or in a hurry. Allow ample (time) for each task and have an (accident-free) holiday.

Did Santa leave a sackful of (toys) at your house? Bet they're all over the (floor) right now. While you're picking up after the holiday, figure out where they're going to be (stored) so they'll be off the (floor) and no one will have a nasty (fall).

Did your baby get a toy animal with removable (eyes) or other easily broken off small (parts)? Check to see. Remove them yourself before he gets them into his (mouth) or (ears).

Is your husband one of the million or so home workshop hobbyists? Did you give him something for his workshop for Christmas? Maybe he'd like to put it to use right away. Ask him to make some (shelves) to store the youngsters' (toys). This'll keep them off the (floor) and you'll all miss a nasty (fall).

Did you tuck some (safety) instructions in with that new home workshop power (tool) you gave your husband for Christmas? Make him (read) the instructions that come with it before he uses it. Remind him that he should always use the (guard) on it.

HOME SAFETY CONTEST FOR GIRL SCOUTS

By Earl Edwards
Manager, Chattahoochee Valley Safety Council West Point, Ga.

The Chattahoochee Valley Safety Council, West Point, Ga., received monthly summaries from each of three local hospitals giving statistics on injuries caused by accidents that were treated at these hospitals. We noted that "Home" ranked first as the place where the accidents occurred on every monthly report.

The Safety Council noted that the Girl Scout program in this area was well organized with trained advisers, usually mothers of the Girl Scouts.

Safety tea, opening 1955-1956 Operation Safe Home Contest, Women's Division, Kansas City Safety Council, Kansas City, Mo.

After consulting with Mrs. Kathleen Barrow, director of the Area Girl Scout Council, the contest was decided upon. A $5 prize was offered by the Chattahoochee Valley Safety Council for winners in each of the area towns—West Point, Ga., Lanett, Shawmut, Langdale, Fairfax, Riverview and LaFayette, Ala.

The manager met with the adult Girl Scout town counselors, talked with them on specific home accident problems, and outlined the details of the contest. A number of booklets on home safety were secured from the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. and given to all Girl Scouts who entered the contest. Also, form entry blanks were given to 40 girls who entered the contest.

Judges were persons who had a knowledge of home safety practices. Prizes were awarded in the Safety Council office, and appropriate publicity was given by local newspapers and also by radio.

We noted that good home safety practices were picked up not only by Girl Scouts who entered, but also parents of these Scouts and their adult advisers.

Below is the blank:

HOME SAFETY CONTEST
FOR GIRL SCOUTS

TO: The Chattahoochee Valley Safety Council, West Point, Ga.

I am an Intermediate Girl Scout in the Chattahoochee Valley Girl Scout Council between the ages of 10 and 14 years and would like to enter the Home Safety Contest sponsored by the Chattahoochee Valley Safety Council. Upon entering this contest I would be eligible for the $5.00 prize to be given to a winner in each Valley town; West Point, Lanett, Shawmut, Langdale, Fairfax, Riverview and LaFayette.

I have read materials on Home Safety and discussed with my family the unsafe conditions in our home.

Now our home is safer because, (complete in 100 words or less)

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Name

_____ _____

Troop No. Town

_____ _____

Age Leader

_____

Date

Contest closes March 1, 1955. Return this entry to your leader by that date.

Judges in selecting the best statement will give consideration to the number and type of unsafe home conditions and practices that have been corrected.

OPERATION SAFE HOME CONTEST

By Jean Mullane

Vice President Women's Activities and Home Safety, Kansas City, Missouri

Originated in November, 1953, by Mrs. Marabelle Ebel, then women's vice president of the Kansas City Safety Council, Kansas City, Mo., Operation Safe Home has had as its goal the reduction of accidents in the home. In an effort to accomplish this through educating the public in the prevention of home accidents, all or most women's organizations were invited to compete in a contest that offered them the opportunity to develop ideas, plans, or suggestions of ways and means to cut down the toll of deaths and injuries caused by accidents in what is, presumably, or should be, a safe place—the home.

Through the media of programs, skits, projects, etc., a warm interest in the cause was evidenced, with the result that a substantial reduction in home accidents has been enjoyed in this area.

In the past two contests many original ideas have been conceived by the entrants, with particular emphasis on trying to present the safety lesson in a pleasing, entertaining, and attractive manner. To name a few, the Kansas City Council of PTA presented a clever skit, Dragmop (an entertaining comedy takeoff on Dragnet) pinpointing the safety hazards found in so many American homes. Dragmop met with such marked success that it has been given for many local high schools, the State PTA Convention in St. Louis, and the St. Joseph, Missouri, Safety Council, as well as on local television.

The Women's Chamber of Commerce of Kansas City, Missouri, offered as its 1953-54 entry in Operation Safe Home a handsome scrapbook setting out its various activities through the year, outstanding among which was a booth at the Kansas City Home Show where the W.C. of C. displayed a safety closet containing the necessary items to make the home safer. At least two or more Chamber members manned the booth throughout the week of the show, distributing during that time some ten thousand copies of the home safety check list pamphlet, Are You Safety Conscious? High point of the Home Show for the W.C. of C. was the drawing, on the last night, from the thousands of registrations gathered

through the week, of the name of the lucky winner of the Safety Closet.

The Jackson County Medical Auxiliary made its contribution to home safety by persuading their doctor husbands to enclose with monthly statements the pamphlet, Are You Safety Conscious? Many other valuable presentations, too numerous to name, came out of the first two years of Operation Safe Home, and the reduction in the number of home accidents was ample proof of its worth.

Because of the fine results of the contest, the Women's Division felt it the better part of wisdom to include Operation Safe Home in its 1955-56 planning. With that thought in mind, this year's contest was officially opened on November 21, 1955, at a safety tea sponsored by the Women's Division. Invited as guests of the Women's Division were the presidents and safety chairmen of most of Kansas City's women's organizations. Some one hundred women were on hand to hear the day's program that was opened by Mrs. Ivy Baker Priest, Treasurer of the United States and member of the Board of the National Safety Council.

Also on the program with Mrs. Priest were Miss Alice Catherine Mills, director of women's activities of the National Safety Council, and Miss Nell Snead, fashion editor of the Kansas City Star and a longtime champion of safety in this area. Following the program tea was served at a tea table carrying out the color motif of the green and white safety colors. As each guest left, she was given a contest kit containing the rules, safety folders, and suggestions, all patterned after Mrs. Ebel's original 1953 contest kits. In each kit was included a timely S-D Day button.

The 1955-56 contest will close April 21, 1956. It is sincerely hoped that this year's entries will live up to those of the past two years and that a continuing reduction in home accidents will pay tribute to Mrs. Ebel's fine contribution to the cause of safety in originating the idea of Operation Safe Home.

Winner of safety poster contest, Marylynn Hansen of Allegan County Normal, with Gerald Shafer, Allegan Community Council, Allegan, Mich.

GETTING HOME SAFETY INTO THE HOME

By Gerald R. Shafer
Director, Allegan Safety Council
Secretary, Allegan Community Council
Allegan, Michigan

Getting home safety into the home is indeed a problem which has faced many home safety directors. Many home safety programs have been planned requiring considerable time, publicity in the local papers, arranging for a place to meet, and the rest of the work that is required before a meeting can be held. The night of the meeting arrives, and there are about six or eight there out of a community with a population of five thousand. This is very disheartening. In our community we arrived at the conclusion that the only way that our information could reach the home for which it was intended was by getting it there through the young people.

The Allegan Safety Council, Allegan, Mich., which by the way is made up of the safety chairmen of the various organizations in the community, decided that the youth groups would be used to distribute safety material to all homes in the community. We first had a safety poster contest in which there were 93 posters on home safety. Prizes were awarded, and it was interesting that people of all ages sent in posters. Following this we decided on a home safety contest using the material in the home safety kit. There were three parts to this.

The first week the material in Safety Instruction Cards Nos. 349 and 276 were mimeographed and passed from home to home throughout the community. The following week the same was done with Cards Nos. 314, 321, and 477. The distribution was taken care of by a different Scout Troop each week. The third and final week the contest forms were distributed. The questions were taken from the material contained in the forms already distributed. Following is a list of the questions contained in the contest form:

1. Give three ways to "skid-proof" small rugs.

2. Is it true that smoking in bed is perfectly safe if there is an ash tray nearby?

3. What is the difference in meaning between the words *flammable* and *inflammable?*

4. Are naphtha, benzine, and gasoline good for dry cleaning at home? Why?

5. About what temperature is considered safe for the storage of most perishable foods?

6. Because their hands are small, should babies and young children have very small toys to play with? Why?

7. When using a gas or oil heater why would you be sure the room is well ventilated?

8. When you buy electrical equipment, what label should you always insist that it have? Why?

9. What is the important thing to know about your first aid kit?

10. If you have to replace a fuse in your home, what size would you use—15, 20 or 30 amperes?

11. How would you put out a grease fire in your frying pan?

12. Why is it dangerous to run electric cords under rugs?

13. Describe two ways of marking containers of poisonous liquids (iodine, insecticides or household disinfectants) so that they cannot be mistaken for medicine, etc., even if handled in the dark?

14. What would you do if your clothing catches fire?

15. What precautions should you take when you smell gas?

16. What is a good way to prevent slipping in the bath or shower?

SAFETY and DERRING-DO

By Paul V. Lemkau, M.D.

Director
New York City Community Mental Health Board

AMERICANS tend to admire adventurous activity. In general, this admiration depends to some extent upon the goal of the activity, but at times activity alone appears to be the trait admired, irrespective of its goal. The background for this culturally widespread attitude probably lies in the history of our country, which casts its long shadow over today's patterns of thinking in what has been characterized as the "frontier fantasy." This, perhaps, sets the stage for the waves of popularity of frontier heroes, such as Davy Crockett, Daniel Boone, Sam Houston, and others, that sweep the country when the sentiment is crystallized through a song, a ballad, a play, or a book.

In a sense, this pervading sentiment puts the Girl Scout leader in an ambivalent position. In accordance with her culture, she admires strenuous activity and the competitive spirit, but she also realizes that this spirit involves greater risks of accidents. She wants to teach safety, but she admires the attitudes and activity of the adventurous girl. She may feel that she is violating her ideal concept of a girl in reducing her to the pillow-padded caricature I once saw on the front of an accident-prevention pamphlet.

The way out of this dilemma is, of course, discipline. It is well known that football is far less dangerous if played by well-coached teams with the proper officials than if played by unorganized groups with no one to referee. Davy Crockett and Daniel Boone remained safe because they knew all the hazards of the life they led and were prepared for them. There were plenty of dangerous thrills left even after all precautions had been taken. Safety precautions today need to be looked upon like Davy Crockett's skill at shooting or tracking; they are the measures that keep you alive to shoot and track another day. Davy is supposed to have known every tree; he certainly knew better than to risk getting into poison ivy: it would be rather difficult to shoot and scratch at the same time!

Discipline in this sense means skill, the result of training and practice and knowledge. Approached from this angle, safety education becomes not a series of onerous "don't's," but an endeavor to increase a skill for greater satisfaction in carrying out an activity. A well-trained, graceful stroke in swimming promotes safety as well as speed. The skillful soldier likes to have someone cover him, ready to protect him as he advances, no matter how skillful he is; the "buddy system" is a part of the skill of conquering the water, not an onerous precaution that says the swimmer is not good enough to swim alone. Safety education in handling electric wires is not only education in the dangers of mishandling—it is education about what electricity is and does when controlled and also when it is not properly harnessed.

Like all discipline, that suggested here works best when it becomes unconscious self-discipline, functions automatically. To reach this state requires practice and reiteration of instruction just as all the rest of training does. Thinking safety is a part of the skill of almost everything we do. In almost everything we do, the better we do it the safer we will be, whether it is riding a bicycle, sailing a boat, climbing a mountain, or just crossing a street.

not needed

Even in simple activities like using the tools of arts and crafts, skill makes the difference between safety and the chance of mishaps. *Paul Parker Photo*

The above article is reprinted with permission from The Girl Scout Leader, January 1956, Vol. 33, No. 1.

A. F. Schaplowsky

KANSAS AWARD PROGRAM

By A. F. Schaplowsky

The Kansas State Board of Health received an Award of Merit from the Home Safety Conference in 1955.

EARLY IN 1954 it appeared that it might be desirable to develop a home safety award program at State level modeled after the National Safety Council's award program. The primary purpose of this program was to add incentive to local organizations and groups for developing home safety activities and to give recognition to those groups already active in home accident prevention.

The idea was discussed with the Kansas Safety Council at one of its regular monthly meetings. The group felt that the program had merit and encouraged it by offering to supply as many as four plaques that could be used as the awards. These plaques were to be cast in bronze by a local foundry in the design suggested by the home safety staff of the State Board of Health.

It was then decided that the award program would be developed in cooperation with three or four statewide organizations, for it would simplify the matter of distributing information and materials through channels already existing in these organizations. The home safety staff proceeded to contact the officers of various State women's and parents' organizations proposing the idea of establishing a statewide home safety award program.

Mr. Schaplowsky is director, Health Education Services, Kansas State Board of Health, Topeka, Kans. From 1953 to 1955 he was director, Home Safety Program, Kansas State Board of Health. He is a member of the Home Safety Conference's Home Safety Inventory Committee. He holds a Master of Public Health degree in health education from the School of Public Health, University of Michigan.

The first group contacted was the Kansas Congress of Parents and Teachers. The staff members discussed the proposed project with the chairman of the State Safety Committee and later presented it to the Board of the association at one of its regularly scheduled meetings. The Board gave its approval for sponsorship and encouraged local units to participate in the project.

A working relationship was then developed with the State Safety Committee. Criteria for judging local programs were developed, and materials publicizing the project were prepared for distribution to all local PTA units in the State. Materials prepared for distribution included entry blanks, instructions for submitting entries, and information about home accidents in Kansas. Materials distributed also included suggested programs explaining a home hazard hunt, home accident survey, home safety quiz, poisonous plant project and gun safety programs, as well as lists of home safety films, pamphlets, and posters.

The State Safety Committee was to be responsible for judging the entries that would be received, and it was decided that the unit elected to receive the award would be honored during the State convention of the Kansas Congress of Parents and Teachers the following Spring.

Publicity about the project was distributed to local papers and articles were prepared for the State publication of the Kansas Parent-Teacher Association and the Kansas State Board of Health News Letter.

The home safety staff gave assistance to local PTA's in the form of providing them with educational materials and suggestions for safety activities they could undertake as a part of their local program. Table model exhibits on child safety were loaned upon request. During the year several hundred requests were received from local PTA units for information or assistance in developing local home safety projects.

After the entries had been received by the State safety chairman of the Kansas Congress, the Safety Committee considered each entry

and selected the one entitled to receive the award. All of the entries received were displayed at the State convention as a suggestion to other units for conducting programs during the coming year. The name of the unit selected was given to the person making the bronze plaques in Topeka, and the award was prepared.

The State Safety Committee arranged to have a safety luncheon as part of its State convention at which all interested individuals were invited. Several hundred persons attended this luncheon. The program at the luncheon included the presentation of the plaque to the association which had conducted the outstanding local home safety program during the year by the director of the Kansas Home Safety Program. He also reported on the home accident problem in the State and the need for the continuation of this type of activity by all groups and organizations.

The home safety staff prepared a suitable certificate of award which was reproduced on the State Board of Health's multilith machine. Certificates were given to every unit that submitted an entry in the contest and were signed by the State health officer and by the safety chairman for the Kansas Congress of Parents and Teachers.

A similar award program was developed in cooperation with the Kansas Federation of Women's Clubs. Its State Safety Committee also was responsible for having the entries evaluated. A Judging Committee was selected by this group to do the actual evaluation. The distribution of information was accomplished in the same general manner as it was with the State PTA. A safety luncheon was also held as part of the State convention at which the award was presented, and the featured speaker at this meeting was Miss Alice Catherine Mills of the National Safety Council. The director of the Kansas Home Safety Program presented the award to the local club selected for recognition.

The third group with which an award project was set up was the Home Demonstration Units in the State. This was established in cooperation with the Home Economics Specialists of the Extension Service of Kansas State College. This project differed from the other two in that the Safety Committee of the Kansas Home Economics Association served as the group which evaluated the entries, although all entries received were from local Home Demonstration Units. Materials and information about the program were distributed by the Home Safety Program to county home demonstration agents. The award presentation was made at the Annual Farm and Home Week held at Kansas State College.

The Kansas Home Safety staff believes that the establishment of the State award program stimulated a great deal of interest in home accident prevention among a large number of local clubs and organizations throughout the State. It provided a definite tangible activity that was readily accepted by State and local representatives of the three women's or parents' groups involved during the first year of the project.

How much this program actually influenced safety practices is difficult to determine. We know, however, that it certainly stimulated a great deal of thinking and discussion about home accidents.

The project is being continued this year and we feel that other states would find it a useful project in their home safety programs.

Below are the forms for the contest.

OFFICIAL ENTRY BLANK

THE KANSAS SAFETY COUNCIL
HOME SAFETY AWARD FOR PTA'S

NAME OF PTA_____
ADDRESS _____
CHAIRMAN OF PROJECT_____
SUBMITTED BY_____
ADDRESS _____
APPROVED _____
(Signature of local unit's president)

This entry blank must be completed and sent to Mrs. W. H. Neighbors, 737 North Plum Street, Hutchinson, Kansas by *October 1, 1954.*

See instructions for submitting entry for guidance in preparation of summary and supporting evidence.

SUMMARY OF PROJECT OR PROJECTS

A detailed summary must be included in the exhibit material. It should be a step-by-step history of the program detailing its planning, execution and results.

This certificate was presented to winners of awards in the Kansas Home Safety Award program.

The Kansas Congress of Parents and Teachers
and
The Kansas State Board of Health
presents to

this
Certificate of Merit

IN RECOGNITION OF OUTSTANDING PUBLIC SERVICE IN THE
PREVENTION OF HOME ACCIDENTS
1954

Kansas Congress of Parents and Teachers

Executive Secretary
Kansas State Board of Health

Rev 321

SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

Supporting evidence documenting each aspect of the program must be included in the entry. Types of evidence submitted may consist of publicity, letters, posters, displays, etc.

Elaborateness of the exhibit is not a factor in the judging. However, completely detailed information on the project, clearly presented and organized is desirable.

Entries will not be returned unless specifically requested.

Summary and supporting evidence must be submitted by April 1, 1955.

Left to right: **A. F. Schaplowsky, Kansas State Board of Health, presents, on behalf of the Kansas State Safety Council, the Council's award of merit to Mrs. Dee Lewis, president of the Home Demonstration Unit's Advisory Council of Sheridan County who was accepting the award for the New Hope Home Demonstration Unit.**

THE KANSAS SAFETY COUNCIL HOME SAFETY AWARD FOR PTA'S

WHAT IS THE AWARD?

The Kansas Safety Council Award for Home Safety recognizes and rewards achievements by Parent-Teacher Associations towards the preservation of lives through home safety programs in their communities.

GROUP TO BE HONORED

The award, consisting of an attractive plaque and an appropriate citation, will be presented to the Parent-Teacher Association organizing and fostering the most outstanding local home safety program in the state during the year.

JUDGING THE ENTRIES

The Safety and Recreation Committee of the Kansas Congress will have all entries evaluated and the group entitled to receive the state award selected.

WHAT GROUPS ARE ELIGIBLE?

Any Parent-Teacher Association is eligible for the state award.

HOW TO ENTER

An Association may be nominated as an entry by its president, by any other individual or by another organization.

All entries for the 1955 award must be made on the official entry blank by October 1st, 1954. Entry blanks and a brochure giving complete information about the award will be placed in the August packet.

PRESENTATION OF THE AWARD

The award will be presented at the annual state convention of the Kansas Congress of Parents and Teachers.

Further information may be obtained from Mrs. W. H. Neighbors, 737 North Plum, Hutchinson, Kans.

THE KANSAS SAFETY COUNCIL HOME SAFETY AWARD
INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMITTING ENTRY

STEP 1

Complete official entry blank and mail it to Mrs. W. H. Neighbors, 737 North Plum, Hutchinson, Kansas before October 1, 1954.

STEP 2

Plan and carry out your program of Home Safety.

STEP 3

Gather and assemble supporting materials and send them to Mrs. W. H. Neighbors, 737 North Plum, Hutchinson, Kansas, before April 1, 1955.

EXAMPLES OF ACTIVITIES

Described below are examples of the types of home safety activities which can be considered as a basis for the awards. The program may fall into one or more categories, or may belong in a category of its own.

ACCIDENT SURVEY—Such as sample commmunity surveys, setting up hospital reporting procedures or other methods of gathering data concerning the accident problem in the community.

HAZARD HUNT—Stimulating all community residents to check for and remove accident hazards from their homes.

SAFETY ORDINANCES—Work resulting in the establishment of certain local ordinances relating to such things as handling of poisons, disposal of old ice-boxes and trunks and venting of gas appliances.

CHILD SAFETY—Such as establishing classes in child care for mothers or baby sitters.

SPECIAL PROJECTS—Such as sponsoring poster or speech contests, home safety week or home safety floats in parades.

DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM

To provide a basis for judging, each entry submitted must be supported by a complete step-by-step history of the home safety program. Such information as the following may be included:

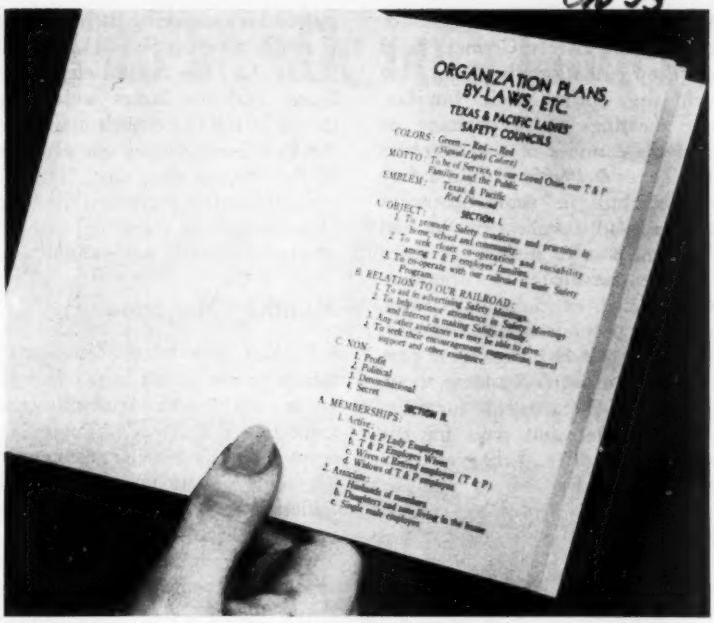
1. Reasons why project was needed.
2. Types of publicity, if any.
3. All related activities such as contests, rallies, special meetings.
4. Organizations, persons or official agencies whose cooperation contributed to the project.
5. Progress achieved.
6. Scope and duration of the home safety effort.
7. Results stemming indirectly from original program.
8. Any home safety work other than program submitted.

Evidence must also accompany each aspect of the home safety programs submitted. It may include documentation such as:

1. Newspaper or magazine articles.
2. Copies of letters sent out.
3. Posters, pamphlets, etc.
4. Supporting letters from persons or organizations.
5. Pictures of displays or activities.

Entries will be judged on their content, not appearance, but a clear and logical presentation is desirable.

All supporting materials must be submitted by April 1st, 1955.



Booklet containing the organization plans, bylaws, etc., of the Texas & Pacific Ladies Safety Councils.

A RAILROAD INVITES AID OF THE LADIES

By J. H. Williams

Superintendent of Safety
The Texas & Pacific Railway Co.
Dallas, Texas

The Texas & Pacific Railway Company's public safety activity and off-the-job safety program among its employees and their families.

SEVERAL YEARS ago, prior to my being appointed safety superintendent of my Company, I held a position as division trainmaster, and seeing the effects of accidents occurring at home to members of the families of workers under my jurisdiction, I thought a great deal about the necessity for a systemwide program among employees and their families which would reduce accidents in the home, and at play. I felt this would make our employees safer men because they would not bring to work with them minds and hearts filled with worry and sorrow because someone at home had suffered an accident.

I was put in charge of the safety program on this railroad January 1, 1951, and shortly after taking over the responsibilities of this position, I started formulating plans for the creation of safety groups made up of wives, mothers, and adult daughters of our workers. The first group was formed in Shreveport, La., with a membership of 40. We decided that this would be the "guinea pig," and I am happy to say that the membership increased very rapidly. This group now has over 250 women on the membership roll, and in addition there is a Negro group at Shreveport which has a hundred or more members.

These safety organizations are known as the Texas & Pacific Ladies Safety Councils. Their purpose is to promote safety in homes, schools, and communities. We now have 12 of these groups comprised of white women, and 3 comprised of Negro women. The total membership runs in the neighborhood of 2,600. These Councils were organized at the larger terminals from which we could draw from the women folk of larger groups of employees in order to justify the organizing of such a group.

The ladies first promoted safety in their own homes and worked with one another to bring this about. From the best information I can get, they rarely ever have an accident among their own families.

However, this was not enough. They branched out to take in safety work throughout their entire communities. They offered their services to local and state safety organizations such as police, welfare and health departments, Parent Teacher Associations, the various civic clubs, schools, churches and hospitals, or any body of people that needed their services.

They promoted, sponsored, and supervised driver training courses, baby sitter schools, poster contests, bicycle safety contests, citywide safety supervision during school holiday periods, and "Small Fry" operations.

Several newspapers have published editorials praising this work. The Louisiana Safety Association, at its annual meetings in connection with the Governor's Highway Traffic Safety Conference, for the past three years has appointed a member of this organization to be chairman of the Home Safety Section. These ladies hold responsible positions in Citizen's Traffic Commissions, are directors of various local and state

safety organizations, and are highly respected among the citizens throughout the communities in which they serve.

For Young People

For the young people of towns and communities along our railroad, we have an organization known as the "Accident Avoiders Association" with membership cards which have a suitable obligation on the back. The most recent program of this type was held at Mineola, Texas, (one of our division points) was sponsored by the Texas & Pacific Ladies Safety Council, and was in connection with a citywide bicycle safety contest which was supervised by the Safety Department of the Texas & Pacific Railway Company. The judges in the bicycle contest were such men as the manager of the Chamber of Commerce, ministers of two prominent churches, and the editor of the local newspaper. The obligation was given to the young people affiliating with the Accident Avoiders Association by another minister of one of the churches in this community.

Ladies Safety Councils

The Texas & Pacific Railway Company assists these Ladies Safety Councils in any way that it can. The Texas & Pacific Ladies Safety Councils have their own officers, their own bylaws, and their own membership cards. While the Safety Department of the railroad works very closely with them, we take no part whatever in the politics of the organization.

About twice each year these ladies sponsor citywide safety programs to which everyone in the towns and communities who cares to come is invited. Off-the-job safety films are shown at these programs, and short talks are made by prominent men directly connected with or interested in safety. At no time do we induct railroad safety into these meetings. They are kept strictly on the community public safety activity level, and in some instances door prizes are provided.

Every three months, the Texas & Pacific Ladies Safety Councils hold what they call "Family Night," to which they bring their families. These meetings are kept more or less to the families of the members of the Texas & Pacific Ladies Safety Councils, but in some instances other railroad families are invited for the purpose of interesting them in the membership of the organization. At each of these gatherings, the ladies prepare a covered dish supper. Each lady brings some particular item as agreed among them. The Safety Department furnishes the meat order and pays for the cold drinks, coffee, groceries purchased, etc. All expenses paid by the railroad for each gathering would not exceed $200.00.

Film Library

In addition to the periodic safety meetings to which the public is invited, the Safety Department of our railroad maintains an up-to-date library of 16 mm sound moving pictures which are shown by the Safety Department in schools up and down our line. The Texas & Pacific Ladies Safety Councils sponsor these programs. As a rule when we go into a town to show these films, we go into every school, including grade, junior, and senior high schools, and use safety movies suitable for the various age groups. We are continuously receiving requests for programs in the schools, and I might say these programs are also put on in schools where we do not have Ladies Safety Council organizations.

Louisiana Safety Association

For the past three years, the Texas & Pacific Railway Ladies Safety Council members have been sent to the annual Louisiana State Safety Association which is held in connection with the Governor's Highway Conference. The railroad furnishes sleeping cars and pays a major portion of the expenses of these ladies while attending the meetings. The ladies are very economical, and at no time do they take advantage of the fact that the railroad is sponsoring their trip. Last year this meeting was held in Baton Rouge, La., the capital city of that State, and the ladies were entertained in the Governor's mansion by the First Lady during one afternoon of the stay in that city. The very gracious hostess permitted the Safety Department to come in and take whatever pictures we wanted to.

Monthly Magazine

I think one of the encouraging things to our ladies is the fact that we in each issue of our monthly magazine (T&P Railway's "Topics") always try to have an article concerning some of the activities of these ladies. We try to divide the reports up to get around to all of them and give each group about the same amount of mention.

We do not try to obtain publicity in our public safety activities work. For instance, when we go into a school to show pictures, we never talk about our railroad. The pamphlets we pass out are always of a general safety nature published by the National Safety Council, Association of American Railroads, or some individual company other than our own. However, the newspapers have been very liberal with us in giving us coverage of the activities of our safety program.

Public Safety Activities Award

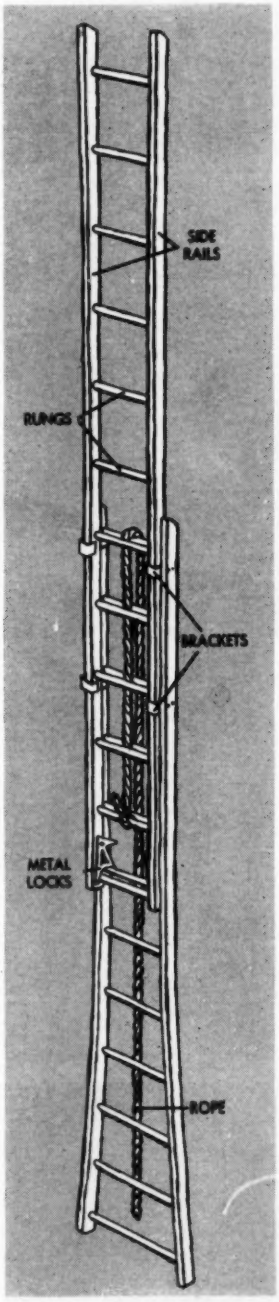
We have for the past two years received the National Safety Council's top Public Safety Activities Award for our public safety work. The officers of our T&P Ladies Safety Councils, totaling about a hundred women, were brought to Dallas to witness the presentation of the award to our president. The expense of their trip was paid by the Texas and Pacific Railway Company.

The members of the Texas & Pacific Ladies Safety Councils take a very active part in safety among the employees of our railroad, and I am happy to state that it is very seldom that one of our men whose wife or daughter is a member of this organization becomes injured.

not rec'd

How to be safe on a ladder

By Bernard Gladstone



Old ladder? Before you climb it, check side rails, rungs, brackets, metal locks — and rope, if it has one. If they're all sound, you climb safely. If they're not, stay grounded.

The house needs paint—gutters are leaf-clogged — chimney's smoking — windows need washing —or for some other reason, you're about to clamber up a ladder. To make sure you come down the same way you go up (one step at a time), why not check through these suggestions to make you as safe on a 40-foot ladder as you'd be with both feet on the ground?

Reprinted from
Better Homes & Gardens
May, 1954
Copyright, 1954
Meredith Publishing Company
Des Moines 3, Iowa

New ladder? Never, never paint it, or it may develop defects beneath the paint—where you can't see. Give it a coat or two of linseed oil or a good *clear* exterior finish.

How to erect a ladder by yourself

Shove ladder to wall at point where you want to raise it. If shrubs intervene, drive a stake to catch bottom rung. Or, have a friend hold base with a foot at each side rail.

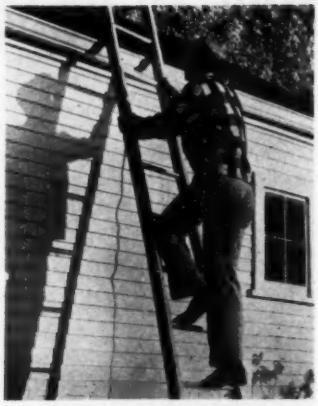
Photographs: Stanley

Start at top end and raise ladder shoulder high. Move hands to position beneath it, with rungs resting on heel of hands, your thumbs and fingers gripping the rungs firmly.

Stay in the middle—and hang on

Slow and steady is safest when you climb up. Hang on with both hands. Never carry anything in your hands.

Loop a rope around wrist as you go—then hoist paint pail or whatever after you're at the top of the ladder.



Walk ladder up, hand over hand, as rapidly as you can. Keep your arms fairly straight.

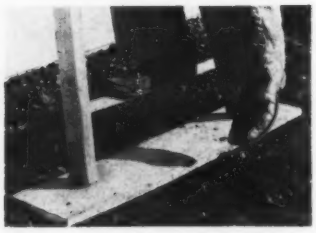
Ladder will seem to grow heavier at first, then become lighter as it nears vertical and leans against house.

Hips between rails is your safety rule when you reach out from a ladder.

Never more than one arm's length. Hold on with other hand—preferably to something other than the ladder, so you won't topple sidewise.

Set bottom out a distance equal to one-fourth of its extended height. This is optimum distance for the most strength and safety.

Average person can run up 24- to 30-foot ladders this way. With longer ones, erect first, then extend with rope.



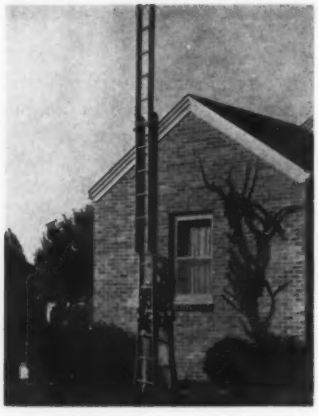
Hook a leg over one rung, if it's necessary to use both of your hands on the job—but never let go with both hands unless it *is* necessary.

Anybody can lose his balance, especially when he has his mind on his "handymanning," not his precariousness.

If ground is soft, "snowshoe" bottom of ladder with a wide, sound board, as shown, preventing legs from sinking.

Good precaution is bouncing once or twice on bottom rung, to be sure ladder's solid, before you climb.

How to carry a ladder vertically



Move a ladder a short distance (if it's not too high) by raising it a few inches off ground and walking carefully.

Watch top, and you'll keep it vertical more easily. The magnesium or aluminum ladders are lighter and easier to move in this manner.

Another way: Zigzag ladder by first moving top, then bottom a foot or two in direction you want to go.

Hang your bucket on the ladder. Then you can forget about it. Several devices can be bought for the job.

Or, you can bend up a good hook out of a big spike or a length of stiff, strong wire.

Ladder on a roof gives you secure footing, regardless of pitch. Hook the steel brackets over the ridge of roof.

Another way: Run a rope down other side of the roof, and make it fast to a tree or shrub or other firm support.

At a door with a stepladder, either lock the door or leave it wide open, as shown.

That way, no one is likely to come bursting through the door and knock you over.

Stepladders can be dangerous, too

Stepladder danger stems from "innocent look." It's relatively low. But you can get hurt on one.

If you can't tighten loose joints on a stepladder, then burn it. Be sure to lock it fully open when you set it up. Inspect it carefully for any weaknesses. Give it a clear finish, same as you do big ladders.

Four-point footing is essential for stepladders.

When you set up over stairways or other unlevel spots, extend the legs by C-clamping sturdy boards to legs, acting as extenders.

This stunt—with heavier clamping—works on extension ladders, as well.

Second step from top is as far as you should go on a stepladder. Above that, tendency to sway increases greatly.

If you must go higher, buy or rent a taller stepladder, or use lower half of your extension ladder by itself.

Lean stepladder against the wall only when shrubbery or other obstruction prevents using all four legs.

Be sure back legs are pulled up, so ladder won't skid on them. Position ladder so steps are parallel to ground as you climb.

Use paint shelf, and leave the ladder top clear, when you take paraphernalia up with you. You'll avoid both serious and nuisance accidents.

Some stepladders have no top "step," reducing temptation to overclimb.

Skidproof legs—on concrete or any other slippery footing—by nailing pieces of old automobile tire over them, as shown.

Otherwise, use rope to tie base of ladder to stake or another solid anchor.

Rent two "jacks" and an extra ladder when you must paint on a long wall. Safer and handier than repeated moving of a single ladder along the wall.

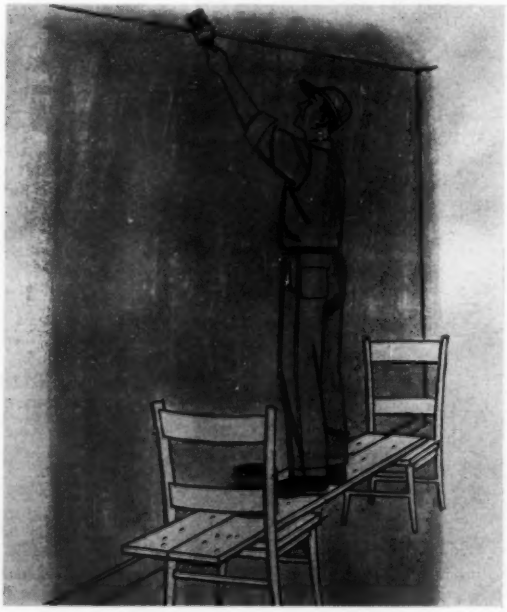
Be sure plank is sturdy. You're safest sitting on it—not standing up. If you must stand up, watch your feet when you move, for the best, safest balance.

Tool shelf for extension ladder is easy to make. Use two shelf brackets and a short piece of 1x10 lumber.

Mounted as shown, shelf is handy to hold tools, etc., and it also lets ladder rest free of wall, so that you can work back of it without moving ladder so often.

Hang your ladder on a wall between jobs—out of the way and easy to get at for use.

Three shelf brackets, spaced out so that they prevent sagging, help keep ladder true and straight at all times.



An indoor scaffold for painting ceilings or high walls is safest if you use two stepladders and a sound 2x10 plank.

But a pair of sturdy kitchen chairs, if positioned front to front as shown, also provides a good scaffold. Set in this position, each chair counteracts inclination of the other to rock or wobble under a 2x10.

A STUDY

of Home Accident Injuries Treated in the Emergency Room of One General Hospital, 1954

By Mrs. Katherine H. Bulkeley

ONE OF THE problems confronting a local health department when initiating a home accident prevention program is that of securing information about the kinds of accidents which are occurring in the community served by the agency and the causes of these accidents. Since local health departments are primarily service agencies whose established programs make heavy demands upon the time of personnel, it is highly desirable that already existing sources of information be used when it is possible to do so.

While death certificates provide ready access to data on fatal accidents, there is, unfortunately, no such uniformly available source of comprehensive information about accident morbidity. It is therefore necessary for each local agency to find or develop its own ways of securing this much needed material.

Mrs. Bulkeley served for one and a half years full time as public health nurse adviser, Home Accident Prevention Unit, Maryland State Department of Health. At present she is a generalized public health nursing consultant in the Department and continues to carry responsibility for development of public health nursing aspects of home accident prevention.

One source which is potentially useful is the records of the emergency rooms of general hospitals, but if these are to be used by the average local health department, it will be necessary to find a method by which information may be extracted without expenditure of large amounts of time. Few counties have sufficiently large staffs to permit interviewing all, or even an adequate sample, of the patients treated in emergency rooms for home accident injuries, but many or all of them could assign one person to review the records periodically and record the information which is contained. In order to evaluate this method, it was decided that a member of the staff of the Home Accident Prevention Unit would study the emergency room records of one general hospital to determine whether the information obtained by the hospital for its own needs is sufficient to guide the planning of preventive programs. A second objective was to estimate the amount of time required to secure data by this method.

Because the Wicomico County Health Department had expressed interest in such a study, contact was made through the county health officer with the administrator and the director of nurses of Peninsula General Hospital at Salisbury, and permission to use their records for study purposes was granted.

Peninsula General Hospital is a well equipped, well staffed hospital of 245 bed capacity, which serves as a medical center for the three lower counties of Maryland, one adjoining county of Delaware, and two counties of Virginia.

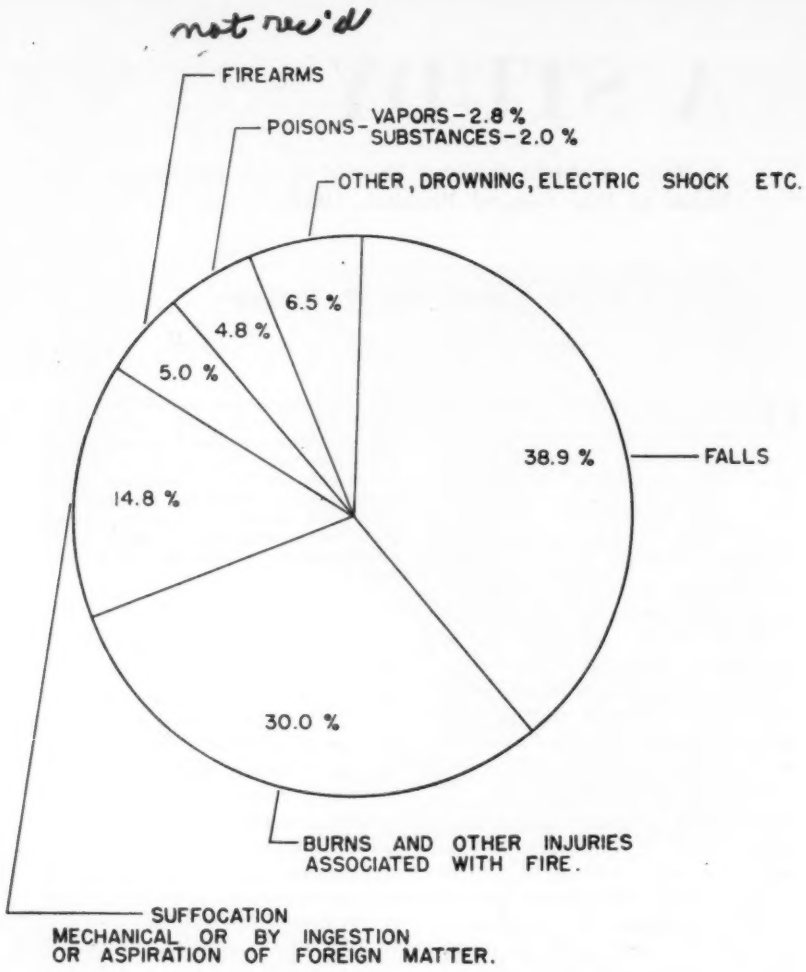
The record of every patient who was seen in the emergency room during the calendar year 1954 was screened, and all records showing treatment for causes other than accident injuries were eliminated. Home accidents were segregated by careful review of each record.

In order to avoid duplication of cases which are included in the study of home accident injuries requiring admission to inpatient service, 116 home accident cases which had been admitted to the hospital from the emergency room were excluded. The 883 records thus selected represent injuries from accidents definitely known to have occurred in the home which were serious enough to require medical attention, but not of sufficient severity to warrant hospitalization. Three hundred thirteen additional records

not rec'd

J. Charles Judge, chief, Home Accident Prevention Unit, Maryland Department of Health, beside map showing place of occurrence of fatal home accidents in Maryland in 1954. The map was keyed to indicate the type of accident that occurred. Also shown is a pie chart (see next page) of types of fatal accidents in order of importance.

The Maryland Department of Health received an Award of Merit from the Home Safety Conference in 1955.



Types of fatal accidents in order of importance in Maryland.

contained comments which strongly suggested that the accidents had occurred in homes but could not be included because place of occurrence was not definitely established.

One of every eight patients seen in the emergency room of Peninsula General Hospital during 1954 was treated for an injury resulting from a known home accident.

Falls accounted for 362 injuries, 41 per cent of the total number. Injuries by cutting and piercing instruments were second in importance. One hundred seventy-eight or 20 per cent of the cases fell into this category. Being struck by objects or striking objects produced 116 injuries, 13 per cent.

More than half of the accidents occurred in the ages 1-14. Ages 15-34 were second, followed closely by 35-54. Seventy-four per cent of all accidents in the study occurred between the ages of 1 and 34 years. The ages 65 plus, which predominate in studies of fatal accidents, incurred less than 4 per cent of these less serious injuries. There was no significant sex difference in the study as a whole. Four hundred fifty-eight accidents occurred to males, 425 to females. More males than females were injured in the ages from birth through 14 years. After age 14, more females were injured.

July, October, and August were the months in which the largest numbers of accidents occurred. The smallest numbers occurred in March and April.

Kinds of Injuries

Forty per cent of the injuries were lacerations. Fractures, 12 per cent, were second in frequency of occurrence. Contusions, 10 per cent, were the remaining sizable group of injuries.

Falls: 43.6 per cent lacerations, 23.7 per cent fractures, 12 per cent contusions, 20.7 per cent in seven additional classifications.

Cutting and piercing instruments: 62 per cent lacerations, 23 per cent puncture wounds, 7 per cent foreign objects embedded in tissue. There were small numbers of contusions, abrasions and multiple small injuries.

Striking and being struck by objects: 59 per cent lacerations, 15 per cent contusions, 10 per cent fractures, and small numbers of other assorted injuries.

Caught in and between objects: contusions, 38 per cent, lacerations, 25 per cent, multiple, 8 per cent.

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Maryland Department of Health, Home Accident Prevention Unit, *left to right*, Mrs. Mary N. Donnelly, senior clerk; J. Charles Judge, chief; Mrs. Katherine H. Bulkeley, public health nursing consultant; Edgar Drake, education assistant; and Miss Frances C. Wellham, secretary.

Turning and twisting: produced few, but relatively severe injuries, 71 per cent sprains, 29 per cent fractures.

Anatomical Site

35 per cent of injuries affected the upper extremities, 25 per cent the lower extremities, and 19 per cent the face.

67 per cent of the fractures involved the upper extremities, 27 per cent the lower extremities. Lacerations occurred most frequently to the face, 38 per cent, and the upper extremities, 30 per cent.

80 per cent of falls resulted in injuries to the upper extremities, or the face.

Injuries by cutting and piercing instruments were most frequent in the lower extremities, 53 per cent, and the upper extremities, 36 per cent. Striking and being struck by objects resulted in a fairly even distribution of injuries to face, head and neck, upper and lower extremities. Being caught in and between objects injured upper extremities predominantly.

Objects Inflicting Injury

Falls: 28 per cent of injuries from falls resulted from contact with floors, 22 per cent from contact with the ground. An additional 20 per cent were inflicted by structural parts of buildings, permanent fixtures, and furniture.

Injury by cutting and piercing instruments: 29 per cent of these injuries were inflicted by objects made of china or glass, 20 per cent by nails, 15 per cent by knives, 19 per cent by other sharp tools.

Striking or being struck by objects: 22 per cent of injuries which occurred in this manner were inflicted by toys and sports equipment. Structural parts of buildings and furniture together accounted for 29 per cent.

Caught in or between objects: Almost 50 per cent of these injuries were inflicted by doors, 18 per cent by wringers.

Contact with fire, hot objects, hot and caustic substances: Hot water or hot beverages, and hot metal objects together produced 56 per cent of injuries. Hot grease accounted for 20 per cent, and contact with flame for 20 per cent.

Severity of Injury

Of the 883 cases studied, all injuries required some treatment. Four hundred thirty-nine patients were discharged after one visit to the emergency room; 444 were referred to private physicians or advised to return to the emergency room for further care.

Charges for the single emergency room visits represented by the records studied totaled $6,404.13 of which $2,854.33 was covered by insurance. Charges in individual cases ranged from $1.75 to $47.35. Average cost per patient was $7.25. The followup care required by more than 50 per cent of the patients entailed additional direct medical expense which is not recorded.

Comment

From the epidemiological standpoint there are numerous gaps in the information which could be obtained from the records studied. Less than ¼ of the total number referred to activity at the time of accident; only about 1/3 specified the part of the home in which the accident occurred. There were no indications of personal factors, other than age and sex, nor of other contributing factors which might have been involved.

Of equal, perhaps of greater, value than the statistics gathered were the vivid, between-the-lines impressions obtained by the investigator. These cannot be tabulated, but could be communicated to interested groups and would serve to vitalize a program in the community. An investigator from within the local health department would find such impressions useful in staff and community education. The presence of the investigator in the hospital setting also offered numerous opportunities for giving information regarding home accidents and for stimulating the interest of hospital administration and personnel in prevention.

The hospital was visited at intervals of approximately four months during the study period. A local agency would undoubtedly prefer to plan for more frequent visits to the emergency room so as to keep their information current. On the basis of our experience, it is estimated that 2 hours per week, exclusive of travel, would be an ample allotment of time for reviewing up to 240 records.

While such a study as is here reported does not provide a comprehensive picture of accident morbidity, it does provide a simple, inexpensive method of obtaining information about accidents which are occurring in a given community. Such information combined with state and national statistics may be used as a basis for planning a program which has meaning for the community because it is based on local experience.

Using

HEALTH EDUCATION

materials wisely and well

Editor's note: Although this article is intended for health education, we thought that by mentally substituting "safety education" for "health education" while reading the article, it would serve as well for safety educators.

AS A HEALTH LEADER in the community, a prime function of every health worker is health education. It is a well accepted fact that education is more than just exposing a learner to information. Somehow he must be involved in the process by taking part in it and he must feel the need for the information.

When the health worker feels that these criteria have been met, he is then faced with the problem of effective presentation of the information. For it is also accepted that pictorial presentation of information provides for greater retention. To sum it up, then, we can say that we learn some from what we hear, more from what we see and hear, and most from what we do.

The effective use of health education materials and tools precludes these steps: *preplanning, preparation, evaluation.*

In preplanning, consideration must be given to these things:

- Who are the people we want to reach with our educational efforts?
- What information do we most want to impart?
- What are the best available ways to get this information to these people: talks to groups, films, leaflets, posters, exhibits, etc.?
- How can we involve these people we want to educate in the planning?

Secondly, we need to consider the preparation of our educational material. *Will it attract attention? Will it hold attention long enough to convey the message? Is it easily read?*

Lastly, in order to help us do the best possible job and improve as we go along, it is important that some method of evaluation be considered. Evaluation can be gained by talking with those we're teaching, by getting written statements, and by observing the practices of the learner following the efforts to educate him.

What, then, are the tools and materials available and what must we know of them to use them effectively?

Let's talk first of the much-used health exhibit. There are a lot of reasons why one might want to use an exhibit.

- It's an attention-getter.
- It can help you reach people who don't read and won't listen or show up at your meetings.
- It has dramatic impact if it offers color and pictures. These are qualities to which the human animal responds.
- It's a time-saver. Convention goers and window-shoppers can learn something without spending much time in doing it.
- If it involves audience participation, it is helping people to learn and remember by doing.

Of course there are always some reasons which add up to the debit of using an exhibit. Competition will be strong. If it is a store window exhibit, it must compete with the latest fashions, the newest furniture, or the late model appliances. If at a fair, it competes with the prize livestock, the horse races, the chocolate cakes, and the merry-go-round.

Most important of all, however, is the realization that, at best, an exhibit is only a supplement to a larger program. To be most effective, even a good exhibit needs the impetus of newspaper publicity—both prior to and following a showing—and an attractive piece of literature. This literature reasserts and expands the exhibit theme and offers the recipient something to take along home with him.

Whole books can — and have — been written about exhibits. They deal with such things as size, shape, color, motion, material, etc. All these things are important, but important in different ways for different types of exhibits.

Without going into great detail, here are a few guideposts to a good exhibit:

¶ It should have a *single* message.

¶ The message should be brief, simple, and clearly visible.

¶ It should be illustrated.

¶ It should have personal interest . . . something which has meaning to an audience.

¶ It should be colorful.

Combine these elements into an exhibit and you've "got it made."

HOW ABOUT pamphlets? Probably no other media known is more widely used — or misused — than a leaflet. It seems that every time the urge to inform pops up, up pops the idea of a pamphlet, too. Pamphlets

The above article is reprinted with permission from Ohio's Health, December, 1955, Vol. VII, No. 12, published by the Ohio Department of Health. It was co-authored by Miss Frances Williamson and Norman Clark, health education consultants with the Department.

can be effective, but to make one up requires a great deal of skill, imagination, and, usually, money.

Basically, pamphlets can be broken down into three types:

(1) Educational—These are written to teach something . . . how to bathe a baby, how to install a septic tank, etc.

(2) Agitative—This type poses a problem . . . how to combat juvenile delinquency, rabies, or some social problem.

(3) Promotional — Included here are annual reports, tax levy information, what the health department does, etc.

The first basic criterion for producing a good pamphlet, leaflet, or throwaway is to select one of the types mentioned above. Don't try to combine them; select one and concentrate on it. Be specific; remember your audience and aim your message directly to it. Don't expect people to read through miscellaneous, unrelated facts to *find* your message. Be bold; use lots of color and a lot of illustrations. Don't be afraid of white space; it often helps lead people to read your message.

As important as any of these, if not more so, is how you distribute your pamphlet. The best of literature can fail if it is not appropriately distributed. Elsewhere in this issue of *Ohio's Health* is related how some health departments have improved their methods of distributing health messages. A good rule to follow is *take your literature to the people concerned*. Examples of this technique are the use of food service literature in restaurants, well child care and immunization materials in well baby clinics.

One common mistake is to make too much literature available. You have all seen literature racks or tables loaded with dozens of different pieces of literature. Wouldn't it be better to feature one, two, or three different ones each week or so?

ALMOST AS badly abused as pamphlets is the use of motion pictures to convey health messages. There is no denying that films do have widespread appeal. The fact is, however, that a film, no matter how good, cannot stand alone in putting your message across.

Effective use of films requires a degree of skill. It takes planning. How many meetings have you been to where a film has been shown . . . period? No introduction, no follow-up discussion, just the film. Try to remember what you got out of the film in such instances. Chances are, all the film did was entertain you for a short time.

Films have, generally speaking, one or two definite functions. Either they are effective in introducing a subject or in summarizing what has taken place at a meeting. Rarely, if ever, can a film be the "whole show" alone.

However you plan to use a film, the secret of its success lies in good planning. Here are some essential steps in this planning:

- Familiarize yourself with the film before you show it to a group.
- Make a list of the important points in the film that you want the audience to get.
- Prepare some thought-provoking questions which will stimulate discussion.
- Introduce the film to the audience, bringing out the points you want them to look for.
- Lead a group discussion immediately after showing the film.

Then, of course, there is always some precaution to take before showing a film. You should check such mechanical things as the lights and ventilation and make sure that the projector is properly threaded and focused.

WE CAN CONCLUDE, then, that to be effective, health education materials must be used in a planned program. Materials alone cannot do an adequate job. They are merely tools that help to interpret, through words and pictures, the valuable health information that you have to give. ◊ ◊ ◊

Nonfatal Injuries in Kansas

. . . There were 448 deaths and an estimated 60,000 non-fatal injuries from home accidents in Kansas during 1954. A continuing study in cooperation with Kansas Blue Shield indicates that this estimated total number of non-fatal injuries is fairly accurate. This study indicates that about 58% of all injuries in the state occur in or around the home while the remainder are divided into the following categories: Occupational, Public and Motor-Vehicle. . . .

WHY do they [home injuries] occur?

Unsafe practices and unsafe conditions such as:

1. Lack of supervision of babies and young children.
2. Such things as matches, firearms and poisons improperly handled and stored.
3. Use of unsafe electrical appliances.
4. Use of unsafe or improperly installed heating equipment.
5. Lack of good housekeeping in house and yard.
6. All parts of home not sufficiently lighted.
7. Lack of hand rails on stairs and steps.
8. Improper electrical wiring.
9. Highly polished floors and unanchored throw rugs.

—How Important Are Home Accidents?, Home Safety Program, Kansas State Board of Health, Topeka, Kans.

Safety Paint

Convoy Skid-Proof Safety Enamel has a remarkable exclusive feature, for the same outstanding characteristic that keeps the abrasive in permanent suspension also provides for an even and uniform spread of abrasive when it is applied. The silicon particles give this paint an extra "tooth" that regular enamel does not provide.—Kelley-Mahorney Co., Louisville, Ky.

The Illusive Phenomena in Accident Proneness

By Wilse B. Webb, Ph.D.

Dr. Webb, head of the Aviation Psychology Laboratory, United States Naval School of Aviation Medicine, Pensacola, Fla., has directed research in aircraft accidents for the Air Force, and in the selection and training of aviators for the Office of Naval Research.

HOW SHALL WE determine the presence or extent of accident proneness?

Granted the factor of accident proneness, how shall we come to know its character?

This, in a sense, will be a consumer's report—a report of occasionally desperate attempts to apply the cool logic of statistics to the fetid jungles of accident data. It is the result of some 5 years of delving into innumerable accident records (1-3). This faint blaze on my back tracks may help others avoid some of the morasses in which I have floundered on a number of occasions.

The Extent of Accident Proneness

In view of the wide use and frequent abuse of the term "accident proneness," it would appear to be a required first step that I outline my concept of its meaning.

I conceive of an accident as a condition of liability, as an event subject to and contingent upon the existence of identifiable, at least in a theoretical sense, events.

This position would contend that a constellation of circumstances at the time of an accident determines the occurrence of that accident. Further, the presence of certain events increases or decreases the probability of any given accident. The summation of the probabilities represents accident liability at any given time. Finally, the position maintains that a knowledge of all of the pertinent events prior to the accident permits the prediction that the accident will occur. It, of course, follows as a corollary that increasing knowledge about the factors surrounding an accident will permit its prediction, or, if such factors are manipulatable, will permit the reduction of accidents.

Here is an expository categorization of events which may be called the dimensions of accident liability.

Factors within individual:

Stable individual characteristics (accident proneness). Examples: psychomotor capacities, intellective capacities, sensory capacities.

Transitory individual characteristics. Examples: fatigue, illness, hangovers, emotional states.

Changeable individual characteristics. Examples: low level of training, faulty training.

Factors outside individual:

Stimulus presentation. Examples: clarity of cues for response, speed of cue presentation, sequence of cue presentation.

Response demands. Examples: speed of response, direction of response, accuracy of response.

Equipment adequacy. Examples: materiel failure, calibration errors, response lag.

Activities of others. Examples: faulty maintenance, faulty instruction.

Consider accident proneness as a component part of this accident liability. Accident proneness, in these conditions of accident liability, is that category concerned with the stable characteristics within the individual. The other categories obviously could not be considered as proneness on the part of the individual since they either are not stable or not directly under the control of the individual.

Accident proneness, then, may be defined as the continuing or consistent tendency of a person to have accidents as a result of his stable response tendencies. For example, two individuals may fly in the same aircraft and in identical circumstances. Thus, they would have the same situational probability of having an accident. However, one may be inherently a poor pilot in regard to coordinative capacities. He will have, because of this lack of proficiency, a greater probability of having an accident in circumstances requiring coordination. He would then be called an accident-prone pilot.

How may we detect the presence of accident proneness in a population of accidents? Let us recognize certain conditions inherent in our definition of accident proneness. First, it has been described as a continuing factor, and, second, it has been described as increasing the liability of accident occurrence. It follows, then, that, if a group of individuals with varying amounts of accident proneness were exposed to conditions which permitted the operation of these factors of proneness, the accidents of those individuals with high accident proneness would exceed beyond chance expectancy the accidents of those with low accident proneness, other things being equal. The problem is simply one of establishing the fact that certain individuals had accidents which exceeded those expected on the basis of chance, other things being equal.

The Poisson Method

Perhaps the most classical method is the Poisson method (4, 5). The method reveals the statistical problem as a relatively simple one. Given a relatively infrequent event, how will these events be distributed by chance alone? If such a distribution can be derived, a comparison may be made with an obtained distribu-

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tion of accidents. If the distributions differ, an inference about the operation of non-chance factors may be introduced.

Thus, if 100 accidents are going to be distributed by chance among 10,000 people over a period of 1 year, what are the chances of these accidents occurring to 100 different people as contrasted with some individuals having 2 accidents, some only one, and some none; or, some individuals having as many as 3 or 4 accidents, some having 2, some having 1, and some having none? Given a chance distribution, how does it compare with the actual distribution of accidents under consideration?

Mathematically, the Poisson distribution, which is merely the binomial distribution with low probability of occurrence, can be used to describe the chance distribution of infrequent events. If the distribution of accident events deviates from that expected on the basis of the prediction of the Poisson distribution, we may state that a beyond-chance factor is operating. This technique has been so sharpened that we may actually estimate the amount of predictable variance which exists above and beyond chance and may further estimate a correlation which could be obtained between perfect predictors and this variance in excess of chance.

The accompanying table presents a mathematically derived chance distribution and an obtained distribution of 7,288 accidents occurring to 17,952 Air Force pilots during an 8-year period (2). Let us consider this table.

According to the Poisson method

Number of accidents	Chance distribution		Obtained distribution	
	Number of pilots	Number of accidents of pilots	Number of pilots	Number of accidents of pilots
0.....	11,962	0	12,475	0
1.....	4,856	4,856	4,117	4,117
2.....	986	1,972	1,016	2,032
3.....	133	399	269	807
4.....	14	56	53	212
5.....	1	5	14	70
6.....	0	0	6	36
7.....	0	0	2	14

First, in regard to the chance distribution, if merely the repetition of an accident is to be taken as the definition of accident proneness, some 33 per cent of the accidents could be so classified in a completely chance distribution. This is patently absurd.

Second, a casual comparison reveals that the obtained distribution contains individuals who did have accidents in excess of the distribution to be expected by chance. Only 1 pilot would have been expected to have had 5 accidents during this period on the basis of a chance distribution. In actuality, 14 had as many as 5 accidents. None would have been expected to have had 6 accidents if these accidents had been distributed on the basis of chance. In the obtained distribution some 6 individuals had as many as 6 accidents.

A comparison by the chi-square technique indicates the two distributions are significantly different. We must, however, reserve judgment as to the possibilities of inferring that this excess of chance occurrence can be attributed to accident proneness.

The Split-Period Method

Perhaps the most straightforward test of the consistency of accident tendencies over a period of time is the "split-period method." This is based on the determination of the relationship between a number of accidents had by individuals in 2 periods of time. The simplest method is to divide the total period of accident exposure into 2 halves and then determine if there is a relationship between the accidents had by individuals in the 2 periods. The statistical tool would be the correlation coefficient. In actual procedure, the time period is more typically divided into accidents occurring in odd and even periods in contrast to a first-half, last half division so as to obtain better control of the external characteristics of the time periods.

A distribution of accidents on odd and even days, according to the split-period method, was obtained for the same Air Force population referred to previously. The obtained correlation is 0.107 and is correctable by a Spearman-Brown formula to 0.193 (2).

Since a correlation expresses the degree of relationship between two sets of measures, these figures indicate the degree to which the accidents had by a man during one period were related to the accidents he had in a second period. A correlation of 1.00 would indicate that the accidents during one period perfectly predicted the accidents in another period, or, one could infer there was a direct relationship between a man's accident behavior during the two periods of time. A 0.00 correlation would indicate that his accident behavior in the two periods was completely unrelated. The correlations obtained were small but significant, and it would be concluded that some beyond-chance factors were operative in the Air Force population.

It should be noted in passing that there has been, on occasion, differential touting of the Poisson method and the split-period method (6-8). It seems appropriate to point out that Jones and I (9) have shown that the two methods, derived from essentially independent assumptions, yield operationally identical estimates. We also found that mathematically the identity of the methods can be demonstrated. Practically, it would appear that the choice of the method becomes dependent only on convenience, ease of conceptualization, or personal preference.

External Correlation Method

A further statistical procedure establishing the presence of accident proneness may be labeled the "method of external correlation." This procedure would be dependent on the selection of a measure presumably related to accident proneness. The population would then be measured on this factor, and then these measures would be correlated against the accident occurrence. If this correlation was significant, it would indicate that accidents could be predicted on assumption of accident proneness, and, therefore, accident proneness could be inferred as existent. For example, suppose a measure of intelligence can be shown to be related to accident frequency. Since intelligence is a stable characteristic of the individual, it follows that accidents are to some extent a function of individual accident proneness as partially measured by intelligence.

Limitations of Methods

All of these procedures have their difficulties, however. The prime difficulty lies in the fact that the beyond-chance factors which may be demonstrated by these methods may not be attributed to the existence of a continuing factor of accident proneness alone. A considerable portion of the liability conditions outlined previously may exist commonly with the individual but not be attributed to his own within-person proclivities for accidents.

For example, 2 individuals with precisely the same capacities or proneness potential may be assigned throughout the accident period to 2 different situations which require different complexities of response. The individual who is consistently required to respond more effectively is likely to make more errors, and accidents would be more frequent throughout the situation, and yet he could hardly be considered more accident prone — consistently more accident liable, yes, but not more accident prone. In fact, quite frequently the converse is true since better men are frequently assigned to more difficult situations. Or, again, frequency of exposure may be different for different individuals during the accident period. A man exposed twice as frequently as another man is likely to have more accidents, but again this could not be called accident proneness.

All instance variations in liability throughout the period under study will result in beyond-chance distributions, if they are systematically associated with certain individuals and not with others. It follows that the extent to which all factors, other than the accident-prone factors which are included in the listing of the dimensions of liability, are equalized among the population under consideration defines the extent to which the deviation from chance established by the methods described can be attributed to accident proneness.

As a point of fact, with each increasing restriction on the Air Force population previously used, there was a reduction in the significance of deviation from chance. Until, for example, training accidents (which impose maximum restriction in regard to age, training, exposure, and type of aircraft) revealed no deviation in their accident repetition from that which would be expected by chance. The same holds true for selected groups of jet accidents in which exposure was largely equalized (2).

The Clinical Method

One further method may be mentioned as a tool for probing the existence of accident proneness. It is not statistical, but may be described as the "clinical method," a method which involves very simply a post hoc detailed analysis of the characteristics of individual accidents and individual accident histories. If, for example, a man consistently has the same type of accident under varying circumstances, and these accidents may be attributed to some characteristic inherent in that man, at least these accidents and perhaps others are attributable to accident proneness.

The clinical method has its advantages and disadvantages, which have been, and are being, argued independent of the present problem. It yields no satisfactory estimate of the extent of accident proneness. I am somewhat frightened by the "seek and ye shall find" phenomena. In the typical complexity of the accident situation I can almost always find that which I am looking for if I know what I am looking for in the first place.

Perhaps the main advantage inherent in this procedure is the liveliness and convincing quality of the results and its usefulness in developing hypotheses to be further investigated.

The Nature of Accident Proneness

Let us assume that either on the basis of faith or fact we are convinced a significant proportion of accidents is determined by accident proneness in a particular population. What do we do next? The mere pointing to the fact of accident proneness is hardly more useful than pointing to sin. We must somehow know its characteristics to be able to deal with it.

Our basic paradigm is not difficult to conceive. We need measures which are presumably related to this intervening concept of accident proneness. We need measures of the accident event. Finally, we need to determine whether our measures of accident proneness are related to or predictive of accidents.

Certain difficulties typically follow from the nature of accidents and accident records. The definition of the accident is a difficult one, yet this is a first requirement in a reasonable test of the predictability of our concepts concerning accident proneness. It is a bit absurd to suggest that, for example, an intelligence test could predict an accident resulting from the breakdown of equipment, when this breakdown was independent of the operations of the individual. In other words, we should limit ourselves to accidents for which the operator could at least theoretically be held responsible.

Unfortunately, even a simple dichotomy of accidents into personal responsibility and non-responsibility is frequently unreliable. When we further try to dimensionalize accidents within a personal responsibility category, vast confusion tends to reign. Not long ago, on reviewing psychological coding systems for accidents, DuBois and I found that the commonality of classification of the nature of the accident usually ranged from about 33 per cent agreement between 2 raters to a maximum of about 70 per cent agreement between the 2 raters (3). The variations seem to be primarily related more to the number of possible categories to which the accident could be assigned than to any descriptive nature of the codings used. So long as the definition of an accident is not at all clear—and to date I know of no satisfactory, psychologically meaningful dimensionalization of this event—our designs will be weak.

On the other end, there are many problems inherent in obtaining measures which we are to relate to this chaos. Most of the problems at this end stem from the fact that accidents are infrequent phenomena. This means that, if measures are to

be collected prior to the occurrence of an accident, the data collection must be an extensive one. Frequently, as many as 10,000 measures must be obtained on a population in order to yield measures on 10 individuals who are going to have accidents. An alternative procedure is the measurement of a limited number of individuals and then waiting for the passage of an extensive period of time until the low probability of accidents yields sufficient cases. This procedure is further complicated on finding that the measures taken may be quite meaningless by the time the accident occurs. Then, there is the post hoc method, the method of obtaining data after the accident has occurred. This method contains all of the faults of a posteriori reasoning noted in the clinical method.

Although there are ways around these problems, one becomes discouraged. Faith, frustration, tolerance, or funds are necessary to sustain us through the travails involved. There is also, of course, the question of what measures should be used, which involves an appraisal of the state of psychology itself. I will merely understate the case by saying that much more needs to be known about the nature of man.

The most adequate studies of the role of psychological factors in the development of errorful behavior, in short, a study of accident proneness, will best be performed in the laboratory situation even though there are inherent difficulties in translating laboratory findings to the operating situation. However, I personally feel that these difficulties will be far less the difficulties inherent in the rough and ready analysis required of the present complexities of the uncontrolled world surrounding operational accidents.

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Committee Reviews Conference Structure and Programs

AT ITS MEETING held in Chicago, Ill., March 7, 1956, the Committee on Conference Structure and Programs, Home Safety Conference, voted:

1) to shift home safety award granting from organizations to individuals. This is "to recognize individual achievement for home safety above and beyond the call of duty." Persons once receiving an award would be ineligible for subsequent awards.

2) to maintain the present Conference structure of three sections: (a) Home Building and Equipment; (b) Health and Medical; (c) Community Service (civic) Groups; the motion included emphasis on necessity for close liaison with education (School and College Conference) and with industry (Industrial Conference's Off-the-Job Safety Committee);

3) that the staff undertake to prepare as rapidly as possible a home safety manual written for the occupant;

4) to establish Conference meetings at the annual Congress on organizational levels and by activity or interest sections; and

5) that the Conference undertake to schedule an evening meeting of dramatic, general interest to all Congress delegates. Fred Long, M.D., vice chairman of the Health and Medical Section, agreed to accept responsibility for the program for this meeting.

The 44th National Safety Congress will be held in Chicago, Ill., October 22-26, 1956.

The Committee also approved staff liaison with the Industrial Conference to develop off-the-job safety programs and approved the general outlines of the 1956 Home Safety Inventory.

Members of the Committee are: John C. Thornton, chairman, American Institute of Architects; Thomas J. Berk, Metropolitan Life Insurance Co.; Mrs. P. D. Bevil, National Congress of Parents & Teachers; W. W. Bolton, M.D., American Medical Association; Ralph Johnson, National Association of Home Builders; Fred Long, M.D., American Public Health Association; Miss Edith Ramsay, The American Home; Tyler S. Rogers, Owens-Corning Fiberglas Corp.; and Mrs. George Welles, Jr., St. Louis County (Minn.) Safety Council.

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Home Safety Inventory Committee of the Home Safety Conference at a meeting held in New York, N. Y., February 23rd. Around the table left to right: Howard Ennes, vice chairman of the Committee, Equitable Life Assurance Society of the U. S.; Philip Dykstra, National Safety Council; Henry C. Steed, Georgia State Department of Public Health; Mrs. Marjorie B. May, Greater New York Safety Council; Ralph Kuhli, National Safety Council; Walter A. Cutter, Ph.D., Chairman of the Committee, New York University Center for Safety Education; Madeleine E. Morcy, M.D., Region V, Children's Bureau; Harold D. Rose, Massachusetts Dept. of Public Health; Miss Eunice Heywood, Federal Extension Service; M. F. Biancardi, Allis-Chalmers Manufacturing Co.; and Mary M. Weeks, Girl Scouts of the U.S.A.

Home Safety Inventory Committee Plans for 1956

PLANS FOR THE 1956 Home Safety Inventory were made by the Home Safety Inventory Committee at a meeting in New York, N. Y., February 23. Composed of outstanding national, state, and local home safety leaders, the group met under the capable chairmanship of Walter Cutter, Ph.D., assistant director of the Center for Safety Education, New York University. Suggestions submitted by various individuals who contributed to last year's inventory were studied by the Committee. Enthusiastic plaudits for last year's efforts and great optimism for the '56 program were expressed.

Stimulation, encouragement, and coordination of local and state home safety programs were stated by the committee as the main purposes of the Inventory. Aiming towards the achievement of these objectives, the committee urged that various methods for broader distribution of the information gathered in the Inventory be explored.

Policies regarding collecting, compiling, editing, and dissemination of the information secured were outlined by the Committee. They further expressed the hope that means be developed to give due recognition to each of the many small local organizations whose programs in the home safety field make up the real "grass roots" of this movement. The decision was made that outstanding programs would be described in detail in the various issues of the HOME SAFETY REVIEW throughout succeeding months.

Much of the success of last year's inventory publication was credited by the Committee to the fine work done by the state collecting points. The same state plan was adopted as the most logical and practical manner of collecting the material this year. It was felt that, where feasible, these collecting points should be selected by the states themselves and that they should be coordinating or council type organizations wherever possible.

An increased budget provided by a grant from the Kellogg Foundation, the addition of Phil Dykstra to work full-time on the Inventory, and Councilwide activities for the Home Safety Inventory were announced by the chairman. However, he reminded the Committee that the success of this year's program will still rest largely upon reports from the thousands of organizations engaged in home safety activities. Participation of all clubs and organizations carrying on any home safety program was strongly urged by the Committee.

THE CALENDAR

Twenty-sixth Annual Statewide Industrial Safety Conference, Hotel Charlotte, Charlotte, N. C., May 2, 3, and 4, 1956. There will be a Community Home and Farm Section meeting at 10:00 a.m., May 4, and a general session at 2:00 p.m., May 4, on safety on our highways, safety in our schools, and safety in industry. For further information write H. S. Baucom, director, North Carolina Industrial Commission, Raleigh, N. C.

Ninth Kentucky Statewide Safety Conference and Exhibit, Kentucky Hotel, Louisville, Ky., May 22-23, 1956. For information write Louisville Safety Council, Speed Bldg., Louisville 2, Ky.

Twenty-ninth Annual Maine State Safety Conference, Marshall House, York Harbor, Maine, September 13 and 14, 1956. There will be a Home Safety Section. For information write Arthur F. Minchin, secretary, Maine State Safety Conference, State of Maine Department of Labor and Industry, Augusta, Maine.

Forty-fourth National Safety Congress and Exposition, Chicago, Ill., October 22-26, 1956. (Conrad Hilton Hotel) For further information write R. L. Forney, secretary, National Safety Council, 425 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill.

Preliminary Accident Facts

HOME ACCIDENT deaths in 1955 totaled approximately 27,000, a decrease of 500 from the 1954 total. There were about 4,050,000 disabling injuries. Costs—including wage loss, medical expense, and overhead costs of insurance—amounted to $750,000,000.

Falls caused about one-half of the deaths; burns, nearly one-fifth; all other types, only one-third.

Over half of those killed were persons 65 years old and older. About a fourth were children under 15 years. The remaining fifth were persons 15 to 64 years old.

The National Accident Fatality Toll

	1955	1954	Change
ALL ACCIDENTS	92,000	89,432	+3%
Motor-vehicle	38,300	35,586	+8%
Public non-motor-vehicle	16,000	15,500	+3%
Home	27,000	27,500	—2%
Work	14,200	14,000	+1%

Note: The motor-vehicle totals include some deaths also included in the work and home totals. This duplication amounted to about 3,500 in 1955 and 3,100 in 1954. The 1954 all-accident and motor-vehicle death totals are the official figures of the National Office of Vital Statistics. All others are National Safety Council estimates.

The above information is from Accident Facts, 1956, Preliminary Condensed Edition, published by the National Safety Council. Single copies free on request.

PLASTIC PIPE

A PROGRAM for applying the National Sanitation Foundation Seal of Approval to plastic pipe, thus identifying it for use in the drinking water field, is the result of a research program of toxicity and taste studies which were made possible by the plastics industry starting more than three years ago. Today, as a result of this program, the public health and water department officials, the public, industry, and, in fact, all users can now identify pipe that is free from toxicity or effect on taste when used for drinking water.

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January 1956 Off-the-Job Experience

COMPANIES EMPLOYING 65,766 people reported 144 off-the-job accidents, including 3 traffic fatalities, which cost 1,730 lost days. These same companies reported 27 on-the-job accidents which cost 948 days lost, and 2 fatalities. Companies employing 82,746 employees reported 133 lost time off-the-job accidents, which cost 2,252 days lost.

Details of the accidents reported are shown in the table below.

Falls and slips off-the-job, in public and home accidents, accounted for the greatest proportion of time lost and number of off-the-job accidents.

In Group I, 27 falls and slips occurred at home and 22 occurred in public for a total of 49 or 34 per cent of the off-the-job accidents. These falls cost a total of 528 days lost or 30.5 per cent of the total days lost in that group. In Group II, 32 falls and slips occurred at home and 11 occurred in public, for a total of 43 or 32.3 per cent of the off-the-job accidents.

Type Accident	Group I No.	Group I Days Lost	Group II No.
Totals	144	1730	133
TRANSPORTATION	44	802	37
Auto—truck	43	756	34
Motorcycle	—	—	1
Railroad	—	—	2
Pedestrian	1	46	—
HOME	62	646	56
Machinery and tools	13	90	5
Fire	2	29	1
Lifting	9	105	5
Toxic mat'l	—	—	1
Fall, slip	27	345	32
Struck by object	6	47	7
Sharp object	4	22	2
Other	1	8	3
PUBLIC	38	282	40
Firearm	—	—	1
Sports	5	18	20
Fire	1	12	1
Fight, assault	6	43	4
Animal, insect	1	2	0
Fall, slip	22	183	11
Struck by object	1	1	2
Other	2	23	1

Do You Want The

NEW

HOME SAFETY REVIEW

Coming To You Regularly?

See Overleaf

New Staff Representative for Community Service Groups

Doris Mersdorf

DORIS MERSDORF has accepted a position with the National Safety Council as senior consultant. She will serve as staff representative for the Community Services Groups Section of the Home Safety Conference and Home Safety Service Members, National Safety Council, in place of Mrs. Elizabeth Reed who will devote full time to the editing of the HOME SAFETY REVIEW.

Miss Mersdorf was formerly with the Chicago office of the National Conference of Christians and Jews as assistant finance director. Previously she served with the University of Chicago's Union Education Service as coordinator of union programs.

Fire Resistant Paint

Halt is exactly like regular oil paint in every way except it creates a tough fire barrier on all surfaces where it is applied. You can decorate and have fire protection with one operation. Available in flat, semi-gloss, and regular outside paint. Halt saves lives and property by confining a fire to a small area preventing its spread.—Kelley-Mahorney Co., Louisville, Ky.

FOR DISTRIBUTION

How to Prevent Lead Poisoning in the Home, two color, 12 page pamphlet, takes up such points as prevention of lead poisoning, what lead poisoning is, those most susceptible, how it occurs, and what the danger signals are. Written by U .S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare in cooperation with the National Paint, Varnish and Lacquer Association, Inc., and published by the latter: 1500 Rhode Island Ave., N. W., Washington 5, D. C.

Use & Care of Gas Appliances, eight page, two color pamphlet, gives a number of safe practices in instructions on the use of a gas range, refrigerator, clothes dryer, water heater, and incinerator. It is intended for distribution by member companies of AGA to their customers and dealers of gas burning equipment. American Gas Association, 420 Lexington Ave., New York 17, N. Y.—1,000 to 25,000, $20.00 per 1,000. Further prices from AGA.

Tips on enjoying Modern Gas Service, is a two color, eight page folder which gives tips on the safe maintenance and use of gas appliances—American Gas Association, 420 Lexington Ave., New York 17, N. Y.

The National Safety Council has reprinted from the Home Safety Inventory 1955 material on health department home safety programs in a pamphlet entitled, State and Local Health Department Home Safety Programs, and on off-the-job safety programs in a pamphlet entitled, Home Safety Programs in Industry. These are available in reasonable quantities free of charge.

REFERENCE MATERIALS

Safe living . . . home and fire doll sets is an 8½ by 11 inch folder intended as a teaching aid containing eight sheets with safety verses and pictures to be completed and colored. This has been distributed by the United States Junior Chamber of Commerce, Box 7, Tulsa, Okla.

Clinical Toxicology of Commercial Products will be published June 1, 1956, by Williams and Wilkins Co. of Baltimore, Md. About 15,000 products will be listed with a description of their use, main ingredients, toxicity rating, and the degree of damage to be expected when swallowed accidentally. The book was compiled by the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry. Currently no book is available to physicians which provides adequate information on composition and toxicity of products likely to be found around the home and farm; the new encyclopedia will be the first attempt to provide a complete medical directory of such trademark and commonly used products.

The National Society for Crippled Children and Adults, Inc., 11 South La Salle St., Chicago 3, Ill., has available for loan to state Societies about twenty copies of Meeting Guide on Child Safety which is intended for use in connection with showing the film, Too Young to Burn.

The National Safety Council has published for the American Public Health Association a report of a survey conducted by the Association among health departments to determine existing home safety programs and needs. In 1950 34 departments reported home safety activities; but in 1955, 296. The report is entitled Home Accident Prevention in Health Departments 1955 and is available from the National Safety Council, the American Public Health Association, 1790 Broadway, New York, N. Y., and the Public Health Service, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Washington 25, D. C.

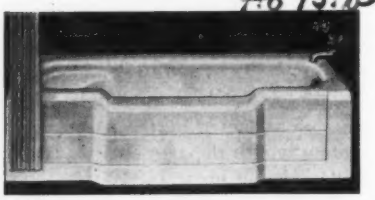
Home Safety bulletin is a quarterly published by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, London, England. The Winter, 1956, issue contains these articles: "Accidents in the Home," summarizing statistics, by R. F. Howard-Hodges, M.B.E., head of the Public Safety Division of the Society and "Safety in the Home," which summarizes a talk of Dr. J. B. Firth, director of the North Western Forensic Science Laboratory, given at their Congress. It also contains news items on various home safety programs being conducted in England.

"Accidents in Childhood," by George M. Wheatley, M.D., and Elizabeth Kasey, Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, published in Modern Medicine, February 1, 1956, presents several statistical tables on child accidents based on material from the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, the Eastern Health District of Baltimore, and the Chicago Poisoning Control Program.

PRODUCTS

Legation Bath

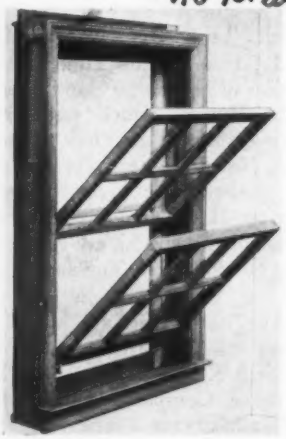
Ho 751b



This bath, installed for children or old people, with generous use of sturdy grab bars at the sides and ends of the bath, makes it easy and convenient to get in and out. The rim seat is six inches wide and the end seat is also generous in size. The basin of the bath is approximately the same cubic area as a regular five inch recess bath.—Eljer Co., Three Gateway Center, Pittsburgh 22, Pa.

Safety Window Hardware

Ho 751w



The Safety Window Hardware is a patented set of window hardware that tilts and can be installed in any double hung wooden window. It tilts windows inward for quick, easier washing, safety and improved ventilation without disturbing or removing screens, storm windows, blinds, shades or hangings in any way. It eliminates the hazards of open windows making it safe for children too. Adjustable hinges hold windows securely at any desired angle.

It does not change the original function of the window. It still can move up or down as wanted.—Safety Window Hardware Corp., 121-127 30th St., Brooklyn 32, N. Y.

The Win-Do-Out

Ho 751w

Fig. 1

Ho 751w

Fig. 2

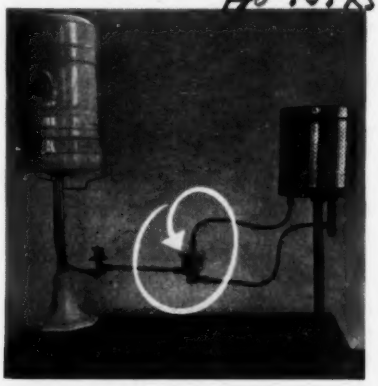
Many of the hazards and difficulties of washing the outside of windows, changing screens and storm windows, and doing general window repairs are eliminated by the installation of a building hardware fixture—the Win-Do-Out. (See circled area, Fig. 1)

This product allows windows to be completely removed from their frames and replaced again from inside the house, (Fig. 2). It is operated by an attached key which when turned by hand unlocks both stops simultaneously, and either the upper or lower window may be easily removed.

It is tamper proof from the outside. It is used on any regular double hung window that operates with ropes or chains, regardless of size or age. Special rope or chain clips are supplied to release the window completely. — The Win-Do-Out Manufacturing Co., 104 Eaton Pl., East Orange, N. J.

Glidden Saf-T-Flow

Ho 751Ks



An antiflooding device to be installed on Pot-Space-Kitchen Oil Burners prevents these stoves from flooding.

It is not a heat activated valve.

This new device shuts the flow of oil off by mechanical means before oil level gets to a dangerous height in the burner. It operates whether the burner is lit or not.

This valve has been approved by Underwriters' Laboratories in the following States: Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Virginia, and the Province of Alberta, Canada.

The State of Massachusetts has now made an anti-flooding device mandâtory.—Municipal Services, Inc., 1 Jackson St., Worcester 8, Mass.